

Wanting a Reese's Cup

For I passed on to you as most important what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures. ~ 1 Corinthians 15:3

Discover the Context
1 Corinthians 15:1-4



Spend some time today reflecting on how Jesus was punished in your place. What he did for you on the cross is the gospel, and it's not just for new believers to think about; you should preach the gospel to yourself every day.



“No sinner was ever saved by giving his heart to God. We are not saved by our giving; we are saved by God's giving.”
~ A.W. Pink
(1886-1952)



If you've never fully trusted Christ to save you from your sins, pray today to receive salvation from God. Confess that you are a sinner and need a Savior. Sometime today talk to someone who can guide you in your faith.



Are you trusting in your “faith” to save you, or are you trusting in Christ to save you? What is the distinction, and why might it be important?

Sure, I have a key to the canteen (our snack shop). Sure, I can go any time I want. But I didn't go and get a Reese's Cup.

It started during evening chapel with a mass exodus to the restroom. It was getting out of control. We decided to make a hard and fast rule concerning the situation. We told the campers to make sure they used the restroom before chapel. Anyone needing to go once chapel started would lose their canteen privilege the next snack time. Seemed like a plan.

Sure enough, at the next chapel, I saw a camper heading for the bathroom. He said he really had to go. I reminded him of the rule we had just made and asked if he was sure he needed to leave. He said yes, and it was obvious he was telling the truth.

I felt horrible since he had the need, but we had to keep the rule—no canteen for him. So here's what I did. I reviewed the rule with the camper and explained that the punishment would still stand. But then I told him that I would take his punishment for him. Even though I had a key and could sneak in and grab my favorite snack, I didn't. I kept my word and took his punishment.

In a sense, this is what Christ has done for all believers—except that the punishment he absorbed was death on the cross for our sins. Paul says that this truth is the first thing, the most important thing that he passed on to the Corinthians. Even though you are beginning to work at a Christian camp, it's possible that you've never trusted Christ to forgive you. Perhaps you've been trusting in other things—your goodness, your parents, your church. Perhaps you never understood the meaning of Christ's death. Be as smart as the boy who ate my Reese's Cup. Don't pay for your sins when they've already been taken care of by Jesus.

God no longer treats you as guilty. This is the most important thing for ministry this summer and for your life. (PAL)